

is heading to Saudi Arabia to beg for oil when we have it right here. It is more than disturbing. It is disgraceful. That is what we have with the President of the United States today.

So now what is happening? Joe Biden throwing another Hail Mary pass, hoping something will happen. His Hail Mary passes are uncatchable.

Since November, Joe Biden has released more oil from our strategic reserve than any President in American history. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is designed to be there for emergencies. He is releasing it because he is trying to bring down the cost of oil and the cost of gas. And he caused the problem. It is not an emergency. This was a Joe Biden-caused problem. Previous Presidents only used the Strategic Reserve during wartime or after natural disasters. But Joe Biden is spending down our savings to pay for his anti-American energy policy. He seems to be proud of it. Well, gas prices are still near record highs.

Let's recount: the day Joe Biden came into the White House, \$2.38 a gallon; today, in many places, over \$5 a gallon and on average, \$4.60 a gallon. And the peak summer driving season isn't even here yet.

Today, the Strategic Reserve is at the lowest level since 1986. So what if there is a real emergency? Then what do we do? This last week, we found out that some of this energy, the oil he has reserved—a million barrels of oil—went to an energy company owned by the Chinese Government. Thank you, Mr. President. Surrender to China. Give it to them. Joe Biden is sending our oil to China in the middle of an energy crisis that he created.

So, on Monday, Joe Biden's National Security Advisor practically admitted that Joe Biden is going to beg the Saudis to sell us more oil. He left for Saudi Arabia last night, and he is going as a weakened President.

He wrote an editorial in the Washington Post about why he was going. I will tell you how he is going: He is going as a weakened President, weakened at home and weakened in the eyes of the world.

Rather than send oil to China and money to the Saudis, let us use the energy we have right here in the United States in the ground, where we do it in the finest environmental ways compared to the rest of the world and we have the energy workers who know how to do it.

What is he thinking?

At the same time, astonishingly, Joe Biden decided to spend the time around the Fourth of July tweeting threats to gas stations. For the moms and pops who are running little gas stations in our communities and our neighborhoods, this is basic economic illiteracy. Prices aren't set by the local gas stations; prices are set by supply and demand. If you want low prices, you need more supply, more American energy.

The prices may have ticked back a little bit now because people cannot af-

ford to drive. They can't afford to fill their tanks. They cannot afford to fill their tanks.

I was at a gas station the other day in Casper, WY, and I talked to a couple.

One of them said: I have \$100. That is as far as I can go. I can only fill it with \$100 worth. I can't fill the tank. I will see how much gas I get.

What have we come to?

Joe Biden brags about killing the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would have brought over 800,000 barrels of oil a day to the United States. He killed it on day 1 in office and bragged about it.

The Democrats in the Senate are now proposing to make the Biden energy crisis even worse. Senate Democrats in this very body, in this very room, are talking about raising taxes on energy production. This is going to raise energy prices for half of the households in America. It will raise prices for thousands and thousands of businesses. Higher prices will get passed on to customers.

If Democrats pass another reckless tax-and-spending bill—and it looks like they are all lined up to do it, save one or two—inflation is going to get much worse, and working families will be paying more. If I were one of those Democratic Senators and were on the ballot this November, I would be shaking in my boots, knowing that the people of my State are mad at me for adopting policies that are hurting them directly in their wallets.

What they are talking about is \$300 billion for more of the old Green New Deal. It is going to give more power to the climate alarmists, to the climate elitists, and to the climate extremists, who run the Democratic Party and are running it into the ground. The professional climate activists will never be satisfied. The activists will never stop. You can never go far enough for them. They weren't satisfied a year ago when they started this inflation crisis, and with the liberal world order, they will never be satisfied. The professional activists want energy prices to remain high. They are happy with \$5 gas. They want to punish us for using fossil fuels.

Joe Biden's advisers keep telling us about this incredible transition. They call it an incredible transition. Well, ask people around the country and in your home State. It has been a transition to a crisis: a transition to higher prices, a transition to a lower quality of life, to pain at the pump, and to pain at the grocery store. It has been a transition to stress for working people and families who feel stuck and squeezed. If Democrats don't change their energy policies, there is going to be an incredible transition. It is going to be a transition of power right here in Washington this November.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

(The remarks of Mr. BENNET pertaining to the introduction of S. 4513 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BENNET. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the Herrnstadt nomination, the vote on confirmation occur at 5:30 p.m. and that the Senate recess from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, Senators can expect two votes at 5:30 p.m. Those votes would be on the confirmation of the Herrnstadt nomination and cloture on the Heinzelman nomination to be general counsel of the CIA.

#### VOTE ON BARR NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Barr nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICE (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Ex.]

#### YEAS—66

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hassan	Romney
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lummis	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Sullivan
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Toomey
Cornyn	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Ernst	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wicker
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Portman	Young

#### NAYS—28

Blackburn	Cotton	Daines
Boozman	Cramer	Fischer
Braun	Crapo	Hagerty
Burr	Cruz	Hawley